

Is time objective, subjective, real, or unreal?

Time is both subjectively and objectively real. Time is objectively real, but our experience of it is subjective and real as well. It is subjectively real because we really experience time passing, and something we experience is real, but only necessarily in the subjective sense (and experience has to be subjectively real, but it doesn't have to be objectively real). Time is also objectively real because it is not dependent on having a conscious being to perceive it, as in it exists regardless of and separate from humans and their experiences of it. Time is not just objectively real, but subjectively as well, because our subjective reality of time is different from the objective reality of it- we can experience time differently from how it objectively is- so it is not one or the other but both, since the realities of it are different but equally real.

To start out, time is argued in Aristotle's *Physics* Book IV to be the "number of movement in respect of before and after", and is continuous since it is an attribute of what is continuous." Kant, in *The Critique of Pure Reason*, on the other hand, claims time is "a purely subjective condition of our (human) intuition which is always sensible... and in itself, apart from the subject, is nothing". I agree with and, for the purposes of this essay, use Aristotle's definition of time because time exists outside of and separate from humans (or other conscious beings).

This is shown by the way that time is altered by dense objects in space and by our evidence of events happening in space long before humans came to be. If time is only a subjective condition of human intuition, and is nothing apart from humans, then time could not have existed before humans. If time did not exist before humans, then there would have been no

ability or potential to move or consequently change before we came to exist, and we never would have existed because none of the changes (for example, the universe and solar system forming, evolutionary advances) responsible for human existence would have happened. Therefore, due to human existence and the evidenced passage of time before conscious beings, time must exist. Due to time's conclusive existence, I will lean towards Aristotle's definition of time for my essay.

To be real is to exist. Subjectivity is the characteristic of something pertaining only to and directly affecting an individual (or individual entity). For something to be subjectively real is to be real only to that individual, and only directly affecting that individual. Objectivity is something that pertains to and affects the world as a whole, regardless of and not influenced or affected by and individual's (or individual entity's') perception or view. To be objectively real is to be exist regardless of and outside of one's subjective reality or perception.

Time is objectively real because time exists regardless of one's subjective reality or perception. If a person, like the people mentioned in the Radio Lab show, perceives time to move slower or faster than it actually does, then that doesn't change time's objective reality. Perceiving that time is moving slowly doesn't cause time to slow except to the one who perceived it- it doesn't change time's objective reality. Time's objective reality can be influenced (as shown by Einstein's theory of relativity) by speed, or by dense objects in space that affect gravity and consequently time. Those examples can actually change time, not just our perception of it. Therefore, because time can be affected by things besides a person's perception, and because those effects pertain to the world and not just an individual, it is objectively real.

We, as humans, really experience time passing. The people mentioned in the Radio Lab show who experienced time as moving faster or slower than it really was truly experienced that

time, even if the time they experienced was different than the objective reality of time (They still aged normally, which shows they only perceived time as passing differently, it didn't actually past differently, unlike the example in Interstellar where time actually slowed due to the black hole's gravity). Our experiences of time's passage exist, even if only to and not separate from us. Therefore, their existence causes them to be real. That reality is not objectively real, because it is not real to and does not pertain to or affect the rest of the world outside that person who had the experience, but it is subjectively real because it real to and only affects that individual. Therefore, time is both subjectively and objectively real.

Time's subjective and objective reality could also be shown by the relationship between subjective and objective relationships. The objective reality of time is what allows for different subjective experiences of it. If there was no reality of time outside of our minds, then we would be unable to perceive it and unable to form a subjective reality of it. A subjective reality can not exist without an objective reality. Even people who suffer from nightmares or schizophrenia (the nightmares and visions being their subjective reality because it is a real experience but only real to them) could not suffer from nightmares or visions if they had no experiences from which the nightmares or visions could be based off of. If time did not exist (objectively), then there would be nothing to perceive (and hence create a subjective reality off of). Time therefore has to be objective alone (subjective realities being unable to exist alone) or objective and subjective, and it can't just be objective because there are people who have their own perception of time, separate from the objective reality of it. If time was only objectively true then it would be impossible to experience anything subjectively, or anything other than that objective reality. Since we do experience time subjectively as well, and since experiences are real (subjectively), then you can also conclude that time is both subjectively and objectively real.

